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EXAMINER	
MISLEH, JUSTIN P	

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2622	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/400,154	Applicant(s) TAKIGUCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner Justin P. Misleh	Art Unit 2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 September 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 55 - 75 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 55 - 75 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims 55 – 75 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 55, 56, 58, 67, 68, 70, 73 and 75** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukasaka et al. (EP 860 978 A2) in view of Camara et al. (US 6,373,507 B1).

The Examiner respectfully submits Claims 55 and 73 are corresponding apparatus and method claims, respectively – accordingly, these claims will be rejected together. The Examiner also respectfully submits Claims 67 and 75 are corresponding apparatus and method claims, respectively – accordingly, these claims will be rejected together.

4. For **Claims 55 and 73**, Fukasaka et al. disclose, as shown in figures 1 – 4 and as stated in columns 6 (lines 30 – 58), 7 (lines 1 – 16), 8 (lines 42 – 46), 10 (lines 10 – 20 and 52 – 58), and 11 (lines 1 – 5), an image input system, which includes an image input device (image sensing apparatus 101) having a plurality of operation modes (see column 10, lines 10 – 19) and a computer (201) having a plurality of software programs (application programs; also see column

10, lines 10 – 19) each corresponding to each of the plurality of operation modes of the image input device (“adding a function for initiating an application” program), comprising:

a transmitting unit adapted to transmit information indicating an operation mode in said image input device to said computer when said image input device and said computer are connected with each other and a communication between said image input device and said computer is established (see below for explanation);

a receiving unit (expansion board 23) arranged in said computer (201) and adapted to receive the information indicating the operation mode set in said image input device (101); and

a control unit adapted to select a software program, which corresponds to the operation mode set in said image input device, from a plurality of software programs and make start the selected software program (see explanation below).

Fukasaka et al. disclose, as stated in column 7 (lines 9 – 12), that an application program is automatically initiated, within the computer (201 – 204), by pressing a shutter button (11) on the image input device (101 – 104) without interfacing with the operator of the image input system. As stated in column 7 (lines 12 – 16), the predetermined application program, such as a TV conference application program or a TV phone application program, is executed in response to the operation of the image sensing apparatus (101 – 104) and may be stored in the hard disk (24) of the computer (201 – 204) or stored in a CD-ROM or other media (as stated in column 9, line 55 – column 10, line 5). Also, as stated in column 10 (lines 10 – 19), in a case where buttons and switches, such as a power switch, a shutter button which has different operation levels (e.g. half-stroke and full-stroke), an automatic focusing button, a white balance button, and a zoom button, are provided in the image sensing apparatus (101 – 104), it is possible to add a

function for initiating an application program by operating one of these buttons and switches or operating these buttons and switches in different combinations. Since each button or switch can initiate an application program, each button or switch, on the image input device (101 – 104), is thought of by the Examiner as a separate operation mode, thereby the image input device has a plurality of operation modes.

While Fukasaka et al. disclose that the image input device (101) and computer (201) are connected and a communication between each other is established, wherein, in the computer, a software program is selected and started in response to an operation mode selection, in the image input device, Fukasaka et al. does not disclose wherein when said image input device and said computer are disconnected in a state that said image input device and said computer are connected with each other and the software program corresponding to the operation mode of said image input device is operating, said control unit keeps the software program operating.

On the other hand, Camara et al. also disclose a camera connected to computer. More specifically, Camara et al. shows, in figure 1, a camera (28) connected to the computer (22) and software (“image acquisition system”) on the computer (22) corresponding to the camera (see figure 6). Camara et al. state, “the image acquisition system is described as being integrated into an operating system that supports a graphical user interface windowing environment” (see column 4, lines 21 – 24). Camara et al. also state, “The ‘Imaging Devices’ window 110 distinguishes between devices that are currently available and those that are not available (e.g., offline, physically removed, etc.)” (see column 4, lines 57 – 61). Therefore, Camara et al. teach wherein the operating system, including the image acquisition system, continues to operate even though the camera may be physically removed (i.e., disconnected) from the computer.

Thus, as stated in column 1 (lines 31 – 34), at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to keep the software program operating when the image input device and computer are disconnected in a state that said image input device and said computer are connected with each other, as taught by Camara et al., in the image input system, disclosed by Fukasaka et al., for the advantage of providing image acquisition software that could be integrated with existing applications and operating systems to provide a convenient environment for the user.

5. For **Claims 67 and 75**, Fukasaka et al. disclose, as shown in figures 1 – 4 and as stated in columns 6 (lines 30 – 58), 7 (lines 1 – 16), 8 (lines 42 – 46), 10 (lines 10 – 20 and 52 – 58), and 11 (lines 1 – 5), an image input system, which includes an image input device (image sensing apparatus 101) having a plurality of operation modes (see column 10, lines 10 – 19) and a computer (201) having a plurality of software programs (application programs; also see column 10, lines 10 – 19) each corresponding to each of the plurality of operation modes of the image input device (“adding a function for initiating an application” program), comprising:

- a transmitting unit adapted to transmit information indicating an operation mode in said image input device to said computer when said image input device and said computer are connected with each other and a communication between said image input device and said computer is established (see below for explanation);

- a receiving unit (expansion board 23) arranged in said computer (201) and adapted to receive the information indicating the operation mode set in said image input device (101); and

- a control unit adapted to select a software program, which corresponds to the operation mode set in said image input device, from a plurality of software programs and make start the

selected software program (see explanation below), wherein it is set in every software whether the software is kept in an operating state or an operation of the software is terminated (The Examiner believes this is an inherent feature. There are no other options than to keep software operating or terminating an operation and every single piece of software is designed to either keep operating or terminate. Therefore, this limitation encompasses all possible situations.).

Fukasaka et al. disclose, as stated in column 7 (lines 9 – 12), that an application program is automatically initiated, within the computer (201 – 204), by pressing a shutter button (11) on the image input device (101 – 104) without interfacing with the operator of the image input system. As stated in column 7 (lines 12 – 16), the predetermined application program, such as a TV conference application program or a TV phone application program, is executed in response to the operation of the image sensing apparatus (101 – 104) and may be stored in the hard disk (24) of the computer (201 – 204) or stored in a CD-ROM or other media (as stated in column 9, line 55 – column 10, line 5). Also, as stated in column 10 (lines 10 – 19), in a case where buttons and switches, such as a power switch, a shutter button which has different operation levels (e.g. half-stroke and full-stroke), an automatic focusing button, a white balance button, and a zoom button, are provided in the image sensing apparatus (101 – 104), it is possible to add a function for initiating an application program by operating one of these buttons and switches or operating these buttons and switches in different combinations. Since each button or switch can initiate an application program, each button or switch, on the image input device (101 – 104), is thought of by the Examiner as a separate operation mode, thereby the image input device has a plurality of operation modes.

While Fukasaka et al. disclose that the image input device (101) and computer (201) are connected and a communication between each other is established, wherein, in the computer, a software program is selected and started in response to an operation mode selection, in the image input device, Fukasaka et al. does not disclose wherein when said image input device and said computer are disconnected in a state that said image input device and said computer are connected with each other and the software program corresponding to the operation mode of said image input device is operating.

On the other hand, Camara et al. also disclose a camera connected to computer. More specifically, Camara et al. shows, in figure 1, a camera (28) connected to the computer (22) and software ("image acquisition system") on the computer (22) corresponding to the camera (see figure 6). Camara et al. state, "the image acquisition system is described as being integrated into an operating system that supports a graphical user interface windowing environment" (see column 4, lines 21 – 24). Camara et al. also state, "The 'Imaging Devices' window 110 distinguishes between devices that are currently available and those that are not available (e.g., offline, physically removed, etc.)" (see column 4, lines 57 – 61). Therefore, Camara et al. teach wherein the operating system, including the image acquisition system, continues to operate even though the camera may be physically removed (i.e., disconnected) from the computer.

Thus, as stated in column 1 (lines 31 – 34), at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to keep the software program operating when the image input device and computer are disconnected in a state that said image input device and said computer are connected with each other, as taught by Camara et al., in the image input system, disclosed by Fukasaka et al., for the advantage of providing image acquisition.

software that could be integrated with existing applications and operating systems to provide a convenient environment for the user.

6. As for **Claims 56 and 68**, Fukasaka et al. states, in column 6 (lines 46 – 49), that image signals are constantly transferred to the computer (201 – 204) from the image input device (101 – 104) where they are displayed on the display (23) until the shutter button (11) is depressed on the image input device (101 - 104) thereby initiating an application program to transfer a still image from the image input device (101 – 104) to the computer (201 – 204), also for display on the display (23). Therefore, Fukasaka et al. disclose wherein the operation modes of said image input device include at least an image sensing mode.

7. As for **Claims 58 and 70**, Fukasaka et al. states, in column 6 (lines 46 – 49), that image signals are constantly transferred to the computer (201 – 204) from the image input device (101 – 104) where they are displayed on the display (23) until the shutter button (11) is depressed on the image input device (101 - 104) thereby initiating an application program to transfer a still image from the image input device (101 – 104) to the computer (201 – 204), also for display on the display (23).

Therefore, Fukasaka et al. disclose wherein in the case that the operation mode of said image input device is the image sensing mode, said control unit selects an image sensing software and makes start the image sensing software, and the image sensing software displays a preview image and senses an image on said computer.

8. **Claims 57, 60, 69, and 72** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukasaka et al. (EP 860 978 A2) in view of Camara et al. (US 6,373,507 B1) in further view of Norris (US 5,864,411).

9. As for **Claims 57 and 69**, Fukasaka et al. disclose, as stated in column 10 (lines 10 – 19), an image input device having a plurality of operation modes, wherein buttons and switches such as a power switch, a shutter button which has different operation levels (e.g. half-stroke and full-stroke), an automatic focusing button, a white balance button, and a zoom button correspond to the plurality of operation modes, and a computer having a plurality of software programs, wherein the computer selects and starts at least a software program corresponding to an operation mode in response to the operation of the buttons and switches.

While Fukasaka et al. (as modified by Camara et al.) disclose selecting a software program from a plurality of software programs in a computer in response to the selection of an operation mode from a plurality of operation modes in an image input device and more specifically, an image sensing mode in the image input device and image sensing software in the computer, Fukasaka et al. (as modified by Camera et al.) does not disclose an image playback mode in the image input device and image playback software in the computer.

On the other hand, Norris also discloses an image input system. More specifically, Norris discloses, as shown in figures 1 and 4A and as a stated in column 7 (lines 46 – 61), an image input device (12) and a computer system (18) wherein the image input device (12) has an image playback mode and the computer (18) has image browsing software (the album function 76).

Thus, as stated in column 1 (lines 26 – 52) of Norris, at the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have included an image input device (12) with an image playback mode and a computer (18) with image browsing software (76), as taught by Norris, in the image input system, disclosed by Fukasaka et al. (as modified by Camara et al.), for the advantage of providing a user of the system with tools to create an electronic photograph album.

10. As for **Claims 60 and 72**, Fukasaka et al. disclose, as stated in column 10 (lines 10 – 19), an image input device having a plurality of operation modes, wherein buttons and switches such as a power switch, a shutter button which has different operation levels (e.g. half-stroke and full-stroke), an automatic focusing button, a white balance button, and a zoom button correspond to the plurality of operation modes, and a computer having a plurality of software programs, wherein the computer selects and starts at least a software program corresponding to an operation mode in response to the operation of the buttons and switches.

While Fukasaka et al. (as modified by Camara et al.) disclose selecting a software program from a plurality of software programs in a computer in response to the selection of an operation mode from a plurality of operation modes in an image input device and more specifically, an image sensing mode in the image input device and image sensing software in the computer, Fukasaka et al. (as modified by Camara et al.) does not disclose an image playback mode in the image input device and image playback software in the computer.

On the other hand, Norris also discloses an image input system. More specifically, Norris discloses, as shown in figures 1 and 4A and as stated in column 7 (lines 46 – 61), an image input device (12) and a computer system (18) wherein the image input device (12) has a

slideshow playback mode and the computer (18) has slideshow playback software (the slideshow function 74) that automatically displays the loaded images on a screen (36).

Hence, as stated in column 1 (lines 26 – 52) of Norris, at the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have included an image input device (12) with an slideshow playback mode and a computer (18) with slideshow playback software (76), as taught by Norris, in the image input system, disclosed by Fukasaka et al. (as modified by Camara et al.), for the advantage of allowing a user of the system to systematically view all the loaded images so as to thoroughly select images for printing and/or permanent storage.

11. **Claims 59 and 71** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukasaka et al. (EP 860 978 A2) in view of Camara et al. (US 6,373,507 B1) in further view of Driscoll, Jr. et al. (US 6,542,184 B1).

12. As for **Claims 59 and 71**, Fukasaka et al. disclose, as stated in column 10 (lines 10 – 19), an image input device having a plurality of operation modes, wherein buttons and switches such as a power switch, a shutter button which has different operation levels (e.g. half-stroke and full-stroke), an automatic focusing button, a white balance button, and a zoom button correspond to the plurality of operation modes, and a computer having a plurality of software programs, wherein the computer selects and starts at least a software program corresponding to an operation mode in response to the operation of the buttons and switches.

While Fukasaka et al. (as modified by Camara et al.) disclose selecting a software program from a plurality of software programs in a computer in response to the selection of an

operation mode from a plurality of operation modes in an image input device and more specifically, an image sensing mode in the image input device and image sensing software in the computer, Fukasaka et al. (as modified by Camara et al.) does not disclose an image playback mode in the image input device and image playback software in the computer.

On the other hand, Driscoll, Jr. et al. also disclose an image input system. More specifically, Driscoll, Jr. et al. disclose, as shown in figures 11C and 13A and as stated in column 10 (lines 32 – 47), an image input device (1205) and a computer system (1200) wherein the image input device (1205) has a panoramic image sensing mode and the computer (1200) has panoramic image sensing generation software for synthesizing loaded images.

Thus, as stated in column 1 (lines 28 – 37) of Driscoll, Jr. et al., at the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have included an image input device (1205) with an panoramic image sensing mode and a computer (1200) with panoramic image sensing software, as taught by Driscoll, Jr. et al., in the image input system, disclosed by Fukasaka et al. (as modified by Camara et al.), for the advantage of providing a user of the system with an increased field of view so as to allow the user to choose the viewing direction of the image.

13. **Claims 61, 62, 64, and 74** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukasaka et al. (EP 860 978 A2) in view of Xu (5,848,420).

14. The Examiner respectfully submits Claims 61 and 74 are corresponding apparatus and method claims, respectively — accordingly, these claims will be rejected together.

15. For **Claims 61 and 74**, Fukasaka et al. disclose, as shown in figures 1 – 4 and as stated in columns 6 (lines 30 – 58), 7 (lines 1 – 16), 8 (lines 42 – 46), 10 (lines 10 – 20 and 52 – 58), and 11 (lines 1 – 5), an image input system, which includes an image input device (image sensing apparatus 101) having a plurality of operation modes (see column 10, lines 10 – 19) and a computer (201) having a plurality of software programs (application programs; also see column 10, lines 10 – 19) each corresponding to each of the plurality of operation modes of the image input device (“adding a function for initiating an application” program), comprising:

a transmitting unit adapted to transmit information indicating an operation mode in said image input device to said computer when said image input device and said computer are connected with each other and a communication between said image input device and said computer is established (see below for explanation);

a receiving unit (expansion board 23) arranged in said computer (201) and adapted to receive the information indicating the operation mode set in said image input device (101); and

a control unit adapted to select a software program, which corresponds to the operation mode set in said image input device, from a plurality of software programs and make start the selected software program (see explanation below).

Fukasaka et al. disclose, as stated in column 7 (lines 9 – 12), that an application program is automatically initiated, within the computer (201 – 204), by pressing a shutter button (11) on the image input device (101 – 104) without interfacing with the operator of the image input system. As stated in column 7 (lines 12 – 16), the predetermined application program, such as a TV conference application program or a TV phone application program, is executed in response to the operation of the image sensing apparatus (101 – 104) and may be stored in the hard disk

(24) of the computer (201 – 204) or stored in a CD-ROM or other media (as stated in column 9, line 55 – column 10, line 5). Also, as stated in column 10 (lines 10 – 19), in a case where buttons and switches, such as a power switch, a shutter button which has different operation levels (e.g. half-stroke and full-stroke), an automatic focusing button, a white balance button, and a zoom button, are provided in the image sensing apparatus (101 – 104), it is possible to add a function for initiating an application program by operating one of these buttons and switches or operating these buttons and switches in different combinations. Since each button or switch can initiate an application program, each button or switch, on the image input device (101 – 104), is thought of by the Examiner as a separate operation mode, thereby the image input device has a plurality of operation modes.

While Fukasaka et al. disclose that the image input device (101) and computer (201) are connected and a communication between each other is established, wherein, in the computer, a software program is selected and started in response to an operation mode selection, in the image input device, Fukasaka et al. does not disclose wherein when said image input device and said computer are disconnected in a state that said image input device and said computer are connected with each other and the software program corresponding to the operation mode of said image input device is operating, said control unit keeps the software program operating.

On the other hand, Xu also disclose a camera connected to a computer and software. More specifically, as shown in figure 1, Xu teach a camera (70) connected to a computer (10) and software (see figure 3) corresponding to the camera (70). Xu states, “[the] program once again verifies that the camera is physically connected to the computer S12, and if it is not connected, the program is aborted, and an error flag is set so a corresponding error message will

be displayed on the display to indicate the camera is not accessible” (see column 5, lines 17 – 20). Therefore, Xu teach wherein the software terminates when the camera is disconnected from the computer.

Thus, as stated in column 2 (lines 10 – 14), at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to keep the software program operating when the image input device and computer are disconnected in a state that said image input device and said computer are connected with each other, as taught by Xu, in the image input system, disclosed by Fukasaka et al., for the advantage of improving the construction and mode of operating a computer system that retrieves data from a digital camera.

16. As for **Claim 62**, Fukasaka et al. states, in column 6 (lines 46 – 49), that image signals are constantly transferred to the computer (201 – 204) from the image input device (101 – 104) where they are displayed on the display (23) until the shutter button (11) is depressed on the image input device (101 - 104) thereby initiating an application program to transfer a still image from the image input device (101 – 104) to the computer (201 – 204), also for display on the display (23). Therefore, Fukasaka et al. disclose wherein the operation modes of said image input device include at least an image sensing mode.

17. As for **Claim 64**, Fukasaka et al. states, in column 6 (lines 46 – 49), that image signals are constantly transferred to the computer (201 – 204) from the image input device (101 – 104) where they are displayed on the display (23) until the shutter button (11) is depressed on the image input device (101 - 104) thereby initiating an application program to transfer a still image from the image input device (101 – 104) to the computer (201 – 204), also for display on the display (23).

Therefore, Fukasaka et al. disclose wherein in the case that the operation mode of said image input device is the image sensing mode, said control unit selects an image sensing software and makes start the image sensing software, and the image sensing software displays a preview image and senses an image on said computer.

18. **Claims 63 and 66** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukasaka et al. (EP 860 978 A2) in view of Xu (US 5,848,420) in further view of Norris (US 5,864,411).

19. As for **Claim 63**, Fukasaka et al. disclose, as stated in column 10 (lines 10 – 19), an image input device having a plurality of operation modes, wherein buttons and switches such as a power switch, a shutter button which has different operation levels (e.g. half-stroke and full-stroke), an automatic focusing button, a white balance button, and a zoom button correspond to the plurality of operation modes, and a computer having a plurality of software programs, wherein the computer selects and starts at least a software program corresponding to an operation mode in response to the operation of the buttons and switches.

While Fukasaka et al. (as modified by Xu) disclose selecting a software program from a plurality of software programs in a computer in response to the selection of an operation mode from a plurality of operation modes in an image input device and more specifically, an image sensing mode in the image input device and image sensing software in the computer, Fukasaka et al. (as modified by Xu) does not disclose an image playback mode in the image input device and image playback software in the computer.

On the other hand, Norris also discloses an image input system. More specifically, Norris discloses, as shown in figures 1 and 4A and as stated in column 7 (lines 46 – 61), an image input device (12) and a computer system (18) wherein the image input device (12) has an image playback mode and the computer (18) has image browsing software (the album function 76).

Thus, as stated in column 1 (lines 26 – 52) of Norris, at the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have included an image input device (12) with an image playback mode and a computer (18) with image browsing software (76), as taught by Norris, in the image input system, disclosed by Fukasaka et al. (as modified Xu), for the advantage of providing a user of the system with tools to create an electronic photograph album.

20. As for **Claim 66**, Fukasaka et al. disclose, as stated in column 10 (lines 10 – 19), an image input device having a plurality of operation modes, wherein buttons and switches such as a power switch, a shutter button which has different operation levels (e.g. half-stroke and full-stroke), an automatic focusing button, a white balance button, and a zoom button correspond to the plurality of operation modes, and a computer having a plurality of software programs, wherein the computer selects and starts at least a software program corresponding to an operation mode in response to the operation of the buttons and switches.

While Fukasaka et al. (as modified by Xu) disclose selecting a software program from a plurality of software programs in a computer in response to the selection of an operation mode from a plurality of operation modes in an image input device and more specifically, an image sensing mode in the image input device and image sensing software in the computer, Fukasaka et

al. (as modified by Xu) does not disclose an image playback mode in the image input device and image playback software in the computer.

On the other hand, Norris also discloses an image input system. More specifically, Norris discloses, as shown in figures 1 and 4A and as stated in column 7 (lines 46 – 61), an image input device (12) and a computer system (18) wherein the image input device (12) has a slideshow playback mode and the computer (18) has slideshow playback software (the slideshow function 74) that automatically displays the loaded images on a screen (36).

Hence, as stated in column 1 (lines 26 – 52) of Norris, at the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have included an image input device (12) with an slideshow playback mode and a computer (18) with slideshow playback software (76), as taught by Norris, in the image input system, disclosed by Fukasaka et al. (as modified by Xu), for the advantage of allowing a user of the system to systematically view all the loaded images so as to thoroughly select images for printing and/or permanent storage.

21. **Claim 65** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukasaka et al. (EP 860 978 A2) in view of Xu (US 5,848,420) in further view of Driscoll, Jr. et al. (US 6,542,184 B1).

22. As for **Claim 65**, Fukasaka et al. disclose, as stated in column 10 (lines 10 – 19), an image input device having a plurality of operation modes, wherein buttons and switches such as a power switch, a shutter button which has different operation levels (e.g. half-stroke and full-stroke), an automatic focusing button, a white balance button, and a zoom button correspond to the plurality of operation modes, and a computer having a plurality of software programs,

wherein the computer selects and starts at least a software program corresponding to an operation mode in response to the operation of the buttons and switches.

While Fukasaka et al. (as modified by Xu) disclose selecting a software program from a plurality of software programs in a computer in response to the selection of an operation mode from a plurality of operation modes in an image input device and more specifically, an image sensing mode in the image input device and image sensing software in the computer, Fukasaka et al. (as modified by Xu) does not disclose an image playback mode in the image input device and image playback software in the computer.

On the other hand, Driscoll, Jr. et al. also disclose an image input system. More specifically, Driscoll, Jr. et al. disclose, as shown in figures 11C and 13A and as stated in column 10 (lines 32 – 47), an image input device (1205) and a computer system (1200) wherein the image input device (1205) has a panoramic image sensing mode and the computer (1200) has panoramic image sensing generation software for synthesizing loaded images.

Thus, as stated in column 1 (lines 28 – 37) of Driscoll, Jr. et al., at the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have included an image input device (1205) with an panoramic image sensing mode and a computer (1200) with panoramic image sensing software, as taught by Driscoll, Jr. et al., in the image input system, disclosed by Fukasaka et al. (as modified by Xu), for the advantage of providing a user of the system with an increased field of view so as to allow the user to choose the viewing direction of the image.

Conclusion

23. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

24. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Justin P Misleh whose telephone number is 571.272.7313. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Lin Ye can be reached on 571.272.7372. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571.273.8300.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Justin Misleh
Examiner, GAU 2622
December 10, 2007



TUAN HO
PRIMARY EXAMINER